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26 EXETER LANE, WILTON, CT 06897**

Planning and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 15, 2019

Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill HB 7192 "An Act Concerning Municipal and Regional Opportunities and Efficiencies." Recent analyses on regional school and district consolidation suggest there is no empirical evidence to validate that such an approach leads to cost savings. The bill privileges financial savings over the quality of my children's education and access to an optimal learning environment.

My husband and I moved to Connecticut in 2009. While both of us procured jobs outside of Fairfield County, we distinctly chose to purchase a home and raise our children in Wilton because of the school system. There were many other areas that were cheaper to live in, offered shorter commuting distances, and possessed better amenities. However, we wanted to live in Wilton because the town deeply invested in their schools and generated a fulfilling life around school activities.

At present, we have two children: one in Kindergarten at the Miller-Driscoll School and the other to follow in two years. Wilton provides outstanding curriculum, experienced faculty, efficient support staff, and newly renovated facilities. The school has exceeded our expectations and we would not change a thing about our child's educational experience to date.

The current discussion of school regionalization and consolidation in Connecticut has made our family seriously consider relocating outside of the state. This year, my husband has had to take a job in Massachusetts as a result of corporations in his industry leaving Connecticut. If not for the quality of school education and the love we have developed for the town of Wilton we would have little to keep us in Connecticut. The negative impact of regional consolidation incurred by Bill HB 7192 may be the last straw for us.

I urge you and members of the Connecticut House and Senate to eliminate this bill.

Respectfully,

*Alyce Perry Englund*

Alyce Perry Englund  
Resident of Wilton, Connecticut